



John C. Cook Braddock District Supervisor

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FY-2015 Budget Survey Results

1. The County Executive's proposed budget increases county spending by about 3.4%, close to the rate of inflation (1.9%) plus population growth (around 1.5%). If the current tax rate stays the same, the average homeowner will see a 6.5% increase in tax payments. At the same time, commercial assessments, sales tax receipts, and other County revenue have declined. This means that despite rising residential real estate taxes, the total revenue growth in the County budget is 3.4%. The school transfer is set at a 2% increase by the County Executive. The School Board has requested additional funding. Which of the following most closely represents your recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on how to respond to this budget picture?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Agree with the County Executive's proposal.	131	23.6%
Cut county spending so the real estate tax rate can be lowered.	217	39.2%
Increase the real estate tax rate so more funds are available.	132	23.8%
No Responses	73	13.2%
Total	553	100%

2. If the County cuts spending, which area(s) do you believe should be cut (you may choose more than one)?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Schools	149	28.9%
Public Safety	68	13.2%
Human Services	207	40.1%
Parks	212	41.1%
Libraries	134	26.0%
Employee Compensation	168	32.6%
Other	168	32.6%
Total	515	100%

3. The County Executive's proposed budget provides a 2% (\$34 million) increase to Fairfax County Public Schools. The Schools are seeking additional funds. Which of the following most closely represents your view on how the Board of Supervisors should respond to the Schools' request?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Increase the tax rate to provide more funding for schools.	143	25.8%
Keep school funding at the County Executive's proposed level.	217	39.2%
Keep the tax rate as proposed, but reduce spending in the areas you identified in Question 2 in order to provide more money for schools.	176	31.8%
No Responses	17	3.0%
Total	553	100%

4. Do you support a 4% county meals tax to raise funds for schools and/or county infrastructure?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes I support a meals tax to support school operations spending.	101	18.2%
Yes I support a meals tax to support school and county building renovations and other infrastructure needs.	40	7.2%
Yes I support a meals tax to support school operation and school and county infrastructure needs.	106	19.1%
I only support a meals tax if property taxes are reduced by the same amount raised.	88	15.9%
I oppose a meals tax.	213	38.5%
No Responses	5	<1%
Total	553	100%